

FACT SHEET

Update: **06/16/06**

GILA NATIONAL FOREST – Fire Update

Fire Info: **505-388-8245/505- 538-1426 (cell)**

www.fs.fed.us/r3/gila



Wildland Fire Use is the management of naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Taylor Fire: **Black Range Ranger District**, detected on **5/15/06**, located 80 miles northwest of Truth or Consequences, NM, south of Wall Lake and west of Forest Road 150. Fire size on the **16th** was **1,830 acres**. There was no fire growth. Daily monitoring of the fire continues.

For specific information about the Taylor Fire, call 505-894-6677.

Brushy Fire: **Glenwood Ranger District**, detected on **6/06/06**, located 3 miles northwest Glenwood, NM. The fire's size was estimated to be **1,630 acres**. Fire activity was limited to interior burning with no increase in perimeter growth. The fire is burning in oak brush, piñon-juniper timber and grass. The main objective is to allow fire to play a more natural role in the environment while protecting the Glenwood Brushy Electronic site and range developments. Crews continued to patrol and check fire growth to the west. Improvement of the fire line around power lines and the Glenwood Electronic Site continued. The fire is projected to move to the southeast. The fire is continuing to provide good resource benefits as it reduces heavy juniper tree densities and improves habitat for bighorn sheep. **Seventy-fire personnel and 3 engines** are assigned to the fire. Some smoke is visible during mid- and late-afternoon.

For specific information about the Brushy Fire, call 505-539-2481.

Cement Fire: **Wilderness Ranger District**, detected on **6/06/06**, located 6 miles north of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. The fire is in the Gila Wilderness and is currently estimated to be **592 acres**. The fire perimeter did not change. Interior fire is continuing in Cement Canyon, on the mesa top to the northeast and in Burnt Corral Canyon. The fire is being **monitored from the air**. It is not posing any threats to private property or structures.

For specific information about the Cement Fire, call 505-536-2250.

Wildland fires - lightning-caused and/or person-caused.

Wildland Fire: Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

Martinez II Fire: (name changed from Martinez) **Reserve Ranger District**, detected on **6/06/06**, located 12 miles southwest of Reserve, NM. Due to better mapping the fire decreased from **6,000 acres on the 15th** to **5,443 acres on the 15th**. The fire is 40% contained. The fire was less active due to lower winds. Air tanker and helitanker retardant drops slowed growth and allowed ground resources to progress with line construction. Threats to communities remain, but no evacuations have been ordered. Structure protection continues to be a priority. Because of complexity, the Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Command Team with Jeff Whitney as the Incident Commander has taken over management of the fire. **Three hundred and sixteen personnel, 11 engines, 3 helicopters and 2 dozers** are assigned to the fire.

For specific information about the Martinez Fire, call 505-533-6901.

Wilson Fire: **Reserve Ranger District**, detected on **6/06/06**, located 9 miles northeast of Reserve, NM. On the **15th** the fire was approximately **3,500 acres** and increased to **5,342 acres on the 16th**. The fire is burning in piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine timber. Continued windy and dry weather has resulted in the fire making major runs to the southeast. Due to continued dry and windy weather, the management strategy has been changed from Wildland Fire Use to suppression. The Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Command Team with Jeff Whitney as the Incident Commander took over management of the fire at 6am on the 17th. The fire continues on both sides of National Forest System Road 49 road. A road closure is in effect on this road from the National Forest System Road 49A junction to the junction of National Forest System Road 545 in the vicinity of Torriette Lake. There are no threats to structures from any portion of the fire, but residents are likely to continue to see significant smoke.

Resources assigned to the fire include **94 personnel and 3 engines**. Additional fire crews have been ordered. For specific information related to the closure order, please visit www.fs.fed.us/r3/gila. For specific information about the Wilson Fire, call 505-533-6231.

Skates Fire: Silver City Ranger District, detected on **6/02/06**, located 7 miles northeast of Pinos Altos, NM and 12 miles northeast of Silver City. On the **15th** the fire was **7,070** acres and increased to **8,500** on the **16th**. The fire is 30% contained. Good progress was made on the northern portion of the fire where structure protection continues to be a priority. Due to coordination with structural fire departments and volunteers and through efforts of fire fighters, no structures have been lost. Lower winds, higher relative humidities, and cooler temperatures contributed to progress made to control the fire. Air tankers and a large helicopter made fire retardant and water drops to cool the fire and delay or help control its movement in critical directions. Highway 15 continues to be closed. Highway 35 is closed from Camp Thunderbird to the junction with Highway 15. The evacuation remains in effect for Lake Roberts Estates, Lake Roberts Heights, Trout Valley, and the Lake Roberts area. Because of the complexity of the fire, a Type I incident management team has been ordered. **Three hundred and sixty-four personnel, 18 engines and 3 helicopter** are assigned to the fire. An emergency fire closure order is in effect for the immediate area in proximity to the Skates Fire. For specific information related to the closure order, please visit www.fs.fed.us/r3/gila. As an added measure of safety for the public and firefighters, State Highway 15 has been closed from the junction with the Forest Road 154 (Signal Peak Road) to the junction with State Highway 35. A dedicated phone line has been established for Skates Fire information; please call **505-388-8268 or 505-388-8208**.

No new starts have been detected since June 13, 2006.

Restrictions

Due to continued windy dry weather and increased fire activity on the Gila National Forest, fire restrictions have been increased. Stage II Fire and Smoking restrictions became effective as of 12:01 am on June 16 and prohibit the use of open campfires, and charcoal grills anywhere on the Forest except the Juniper, Piñon, and El Caso Campgrounds near Quemado Lake. Underwriter's approved petroleum fueled stoves and lanterns are still allowed. Smoking is prohibited except in enclosed vehicles, buildings, developed recreation sites, or while stopped and in a cleared area at least three feet in diameter. Except on the Quemado District, chainsaws and other equipment powered by an internal combustion engines will only be allowed between the hours of 9 pm and 10 am; and motor vehicles will not be allowed to operate off of National Forest System Roads, except when parking within 10 feet off of roadways in areas devoid of vegetation or when parking in developed campgrounds and trailheads. Using a welder or a torch with an open flame is also banned except on the Quemado Ranger District. The official order no. 06-251 can be viewed on the web at: <http://www2.srs.fs.fed.us/r3/gila/fire/forestclosure.asp>.

For more information about the current fire activity, on the Gila National Forest, contact the Information Office at 388-8245 or visit the website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/gila.

Information about all current federal and state land restrictions and closures in New Mexico and Arizona can be found by visiting the website: http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/restrictions_closures.htm

###